

Double Dimers and the Super Ptolemy Relation

Nick Ovenhouse
(joint with Gregg Musiker and Sylvester Zhang)
ArXiv: 2110.06497

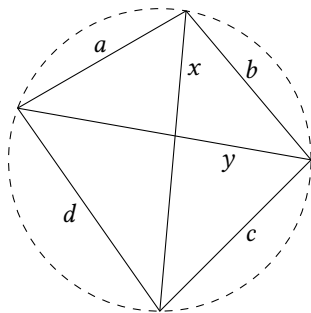
University of Minnesota

December, 2021
Quantum Curves, Integrability, and Cluster Algebras

Ptolemy's Theorem

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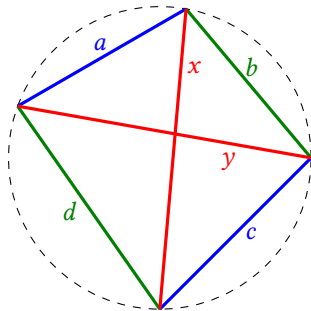
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Ptolemy's Theorem

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Then $xy = ac + bd$.

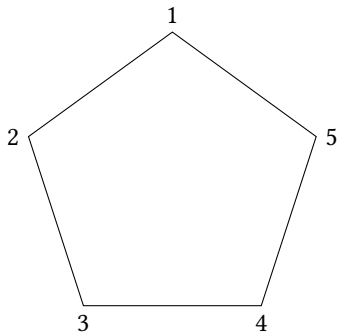


Triangulated Polygons

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x_{ij} = length of diagonal (i, j)

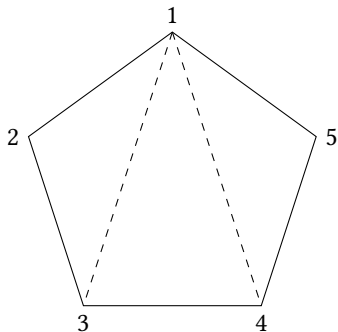


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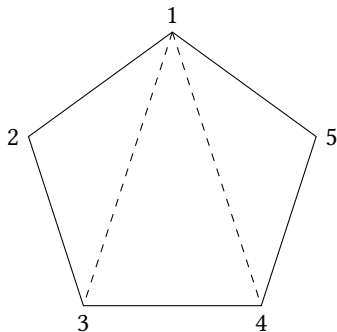
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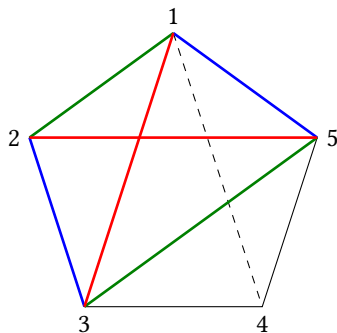
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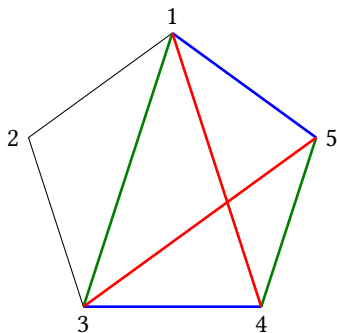
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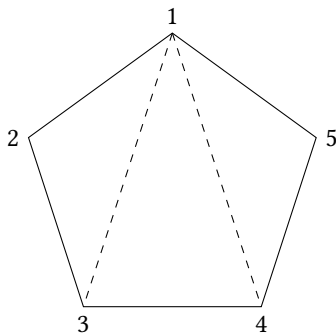
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Main Question

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Answer: They are generating functions of “*dimer covers*” of certain graphs.

Dimer Covers

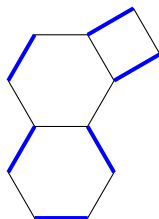
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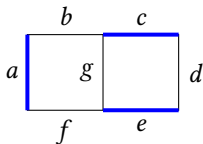
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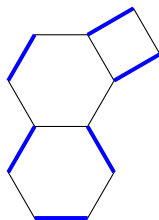
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Examples:



$$\text{weight} = ace$$



If the edges have weights, then the “*weight*” of a dimer cover is the product of the edge weights.

Snake Graphs

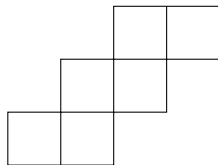
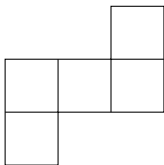
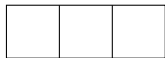
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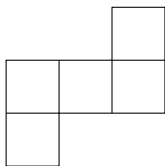
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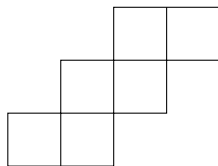
Examples:



$$W(G) = RR$$



$$W(G) = URRU$$



$$W(G) = RURUR$$

To each snake graph G , we can associate a word $W(G)$ in the alphabet $\{R, U\}$ (for “*right*” and “*up*”).

Snake Graph from a Triangulation

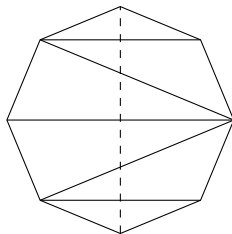
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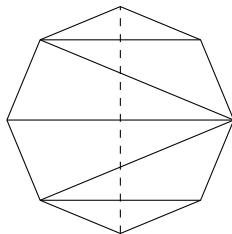
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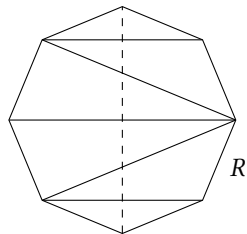
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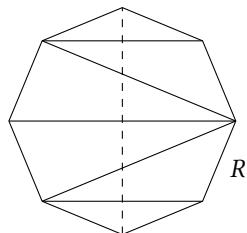
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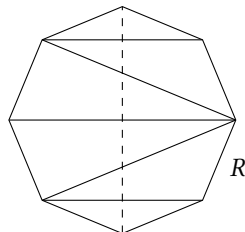
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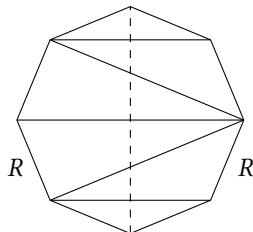
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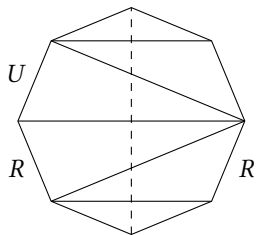
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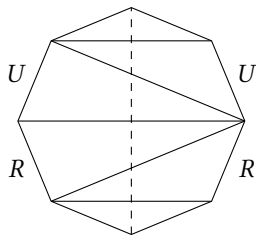
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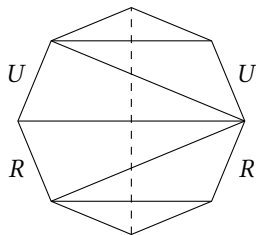
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$$W(G_\gamma) = RRUU$$

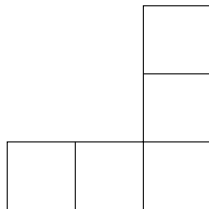
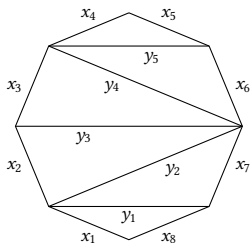
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To label the snake graph, odd tiles match polygon labels, even tiles have opposite orientation.

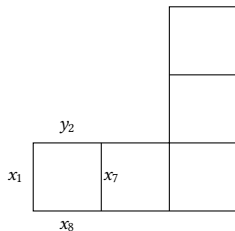
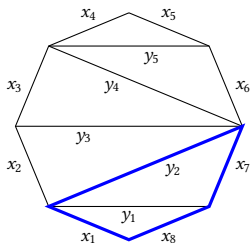
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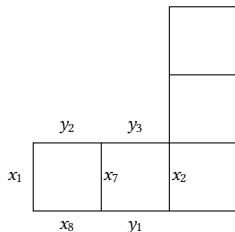
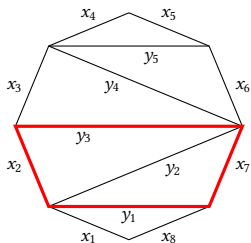
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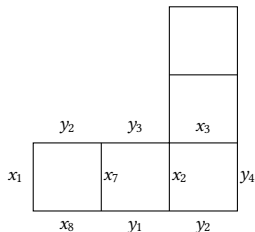
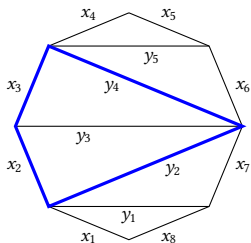
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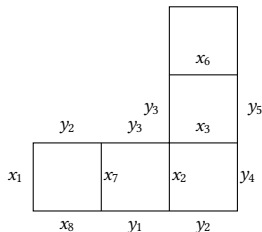
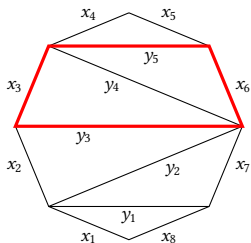
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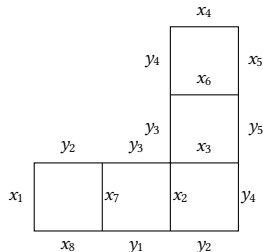
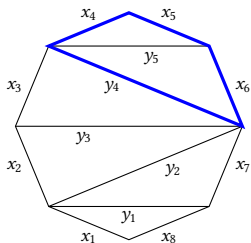
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Theorem [Musiker, Schiffler]¹

$$x_\gamma = \frac{1}{\text{cross}(\gamma)} \sum_{M \in D(G_\gamma)} \text{wt}(M)$$

where $\text{cross}(\gamma)$ is the product of all edges of the triangulation which γ crosses.

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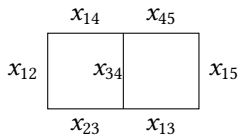
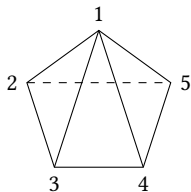
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Corollary

Each x_γ is a Laurent polynomial in the lengths of the diagonals from any fixed triangulation.

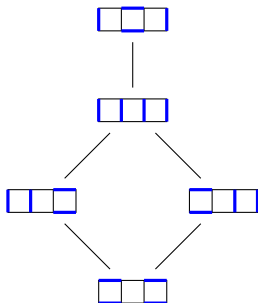
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Example

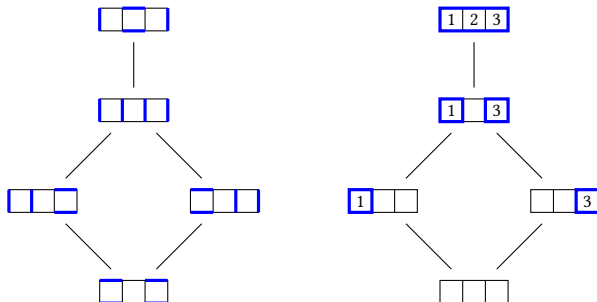


$$x_{25} = \frac{1}{x_{13}x_{14}} \left(x_{14}x_{23}x_{15} + x_{12}x_{34}x_{15} + x_{12}x_{13}x_{45} \right)$$

Distributive Lattice Structure



Distributive Lattice Structure



Superimpose the minimal dimer cover (but don't draw doubled edges) to see this is isomorphic to a lattice of subsets ordered under inclusion.

Super Algebras

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A “*super algebra*” is a \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded algebra.

i.e. $A = A_0 \oplus A_1$, (the “*even*” and “*odd*” parts) and

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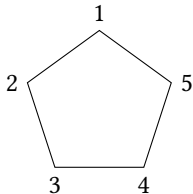
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In this example, A_0 is spanned by monomials with an even number of θ 's, and A_1 is spanned by monomials containing an odd number of θ 's.

Super Algebra from a Triangulation

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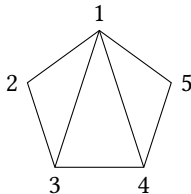
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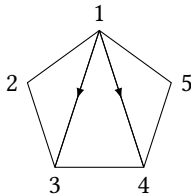
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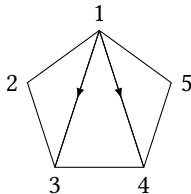
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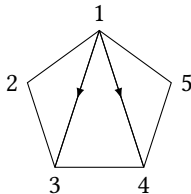


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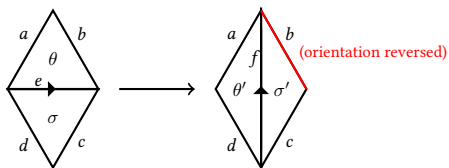
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The example above would have 7 even generators and 3 odd generators.

The Super Ptolemy Relation

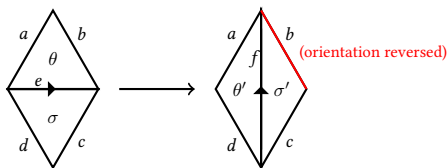
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Given two adjacent triangles, we can “*flip*” the diagonal:



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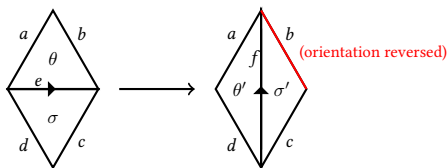


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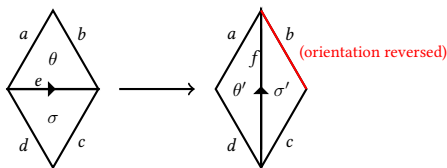
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$$\theta' = \frac{\sqrt{bd} \theta + \sqrt{ac} \sigma}{\sqrt{ac + bd}}$$

$$\sigma' = \frac{\sqrt{bd} \sigma - \sqrt{ac} \theta}{\sqrt{ac + bd}}$$

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Question: Can we explicitly describe these algebraic expressions?

Answer: Yes! They are generating functions for “*double dimer covers*” of the snake graph.

Double Dimer Covers

Double Dimer Covers

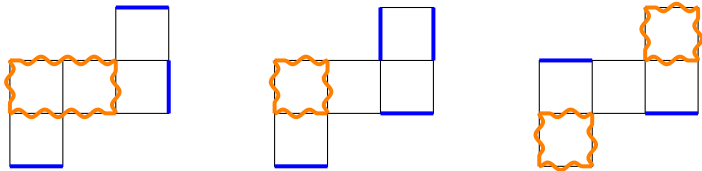
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Dimers will be drawn as wavy orange lines, and double dimers will be drawn as straight blue lines.

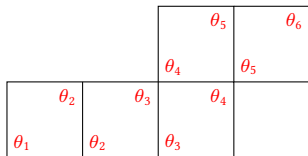
Examples:



Double Dimer Covers on Snake Graphs

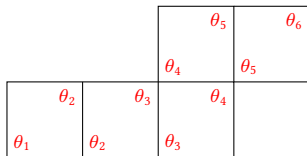
Double Dimer Covers on Snake Graphs

Every square tile in a snake graph represents two triangles in the triangulation. We will label the tiles with the odd variables of those triangles.



Double Dimer Covers on Snake Graphs

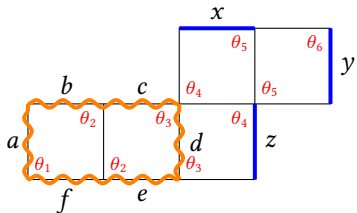
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The *weight* of a double dimer cover is the product of the square roots of the edge weights, times the odd variables at the beginning and end of cycles.

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$$\text{weight} = xyz \sqrt{abcdef} \theta_1 \theta_3$$

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Laurent Formula

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Theorem[Musiker, O., Zhang]¹

Given a fixed triangulation (with the default orientation),

$$x_\gamma = \frac{1}{\text{cross}(\gamma)} \sum_{M \in DD(G_\gamma)} \text{wt}(M)$$

Moreover, there is an ordering of the θ 's which makes all terms positive.

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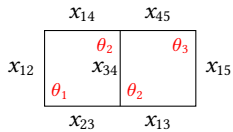
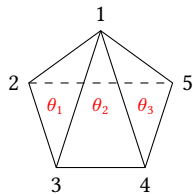
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Corollary (“Laurent Phenomenon”)

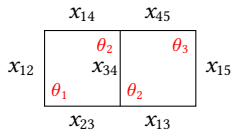
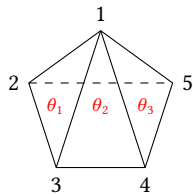
Each term of x_γ is a Laurent monomial in the square roots of the x 's, times a monomial in the θ 's.

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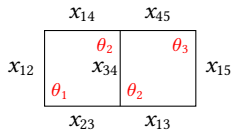
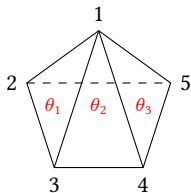
Example



Example

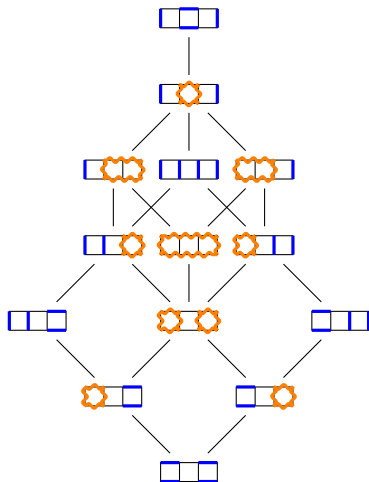


Example

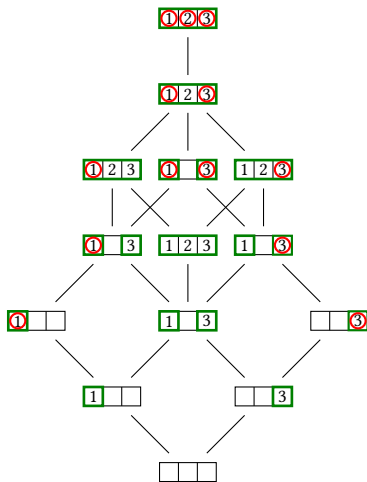
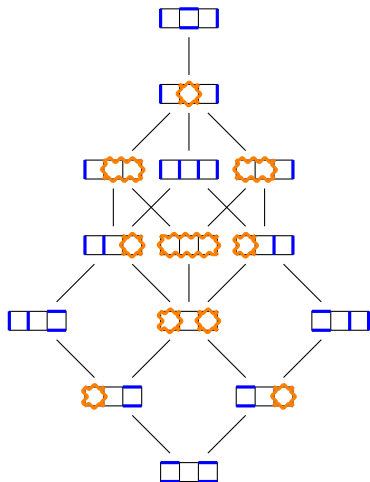


$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{25} = & \frac{1}{x_{13}x_{14}} \left(x_{14}x_{23}x_{15} + x_{12}x_{34}x_{15} + x_{12}x_{13}x_{45} \right. \\
 & + x_{15}\sqrt{x_{12}x_{14}x_{23}x_{34}}\theta_1\theta_2 + x_{12}\sqrt{x_{13}x_{15}x_{34}x_{45}}\theta_2\theta_3 \\
 & \left. + \sqrt{x_{12}x_{13}x_{14}x_{15}x_{23}x_{45}}\theta_1\theta_3 \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Distributive Lattice Structure



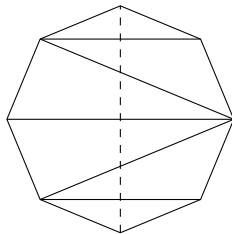
Distributive Lattice Structure



What about odd variables?

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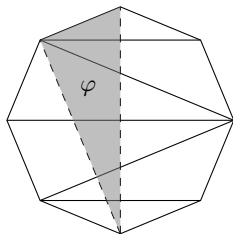
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Let φ be a triangle with γ as a side, and also a boundary side.

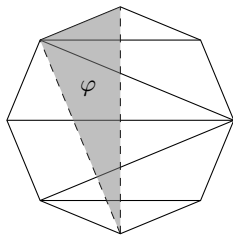


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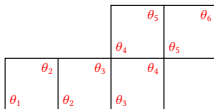
Can we express θ_φ in terms of the initial triangulation?



The Toggle Involution

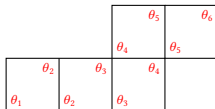
The Toggle Involution

Recall that snake graphs are labelled with odd variables.



The Toggle Involution

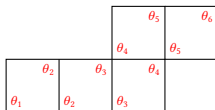
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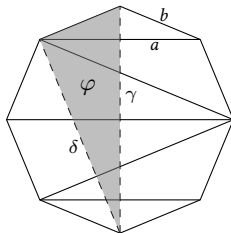


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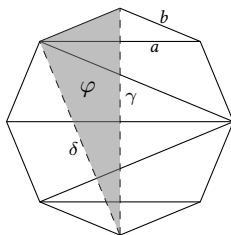
Examples:

$$(\theta_1\theta_2)^* = \theta_1\theta_2\theta_6, \quad (\theta_4\theta_6)^* = \theta_4$$

Formula for Odd Variables



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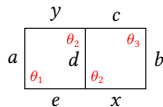
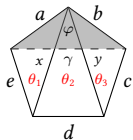
Theorem [Musiker, O, Zhang]¹

$$\sqrt{\gamma\delta} \theta_\varphi = \frac{1}{\text{cross}(\gamma)} \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\sqrt{b}} \sum_{M \in D_t(G_\gamma)} \text{wt}(M)^*$$

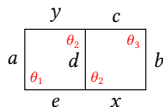
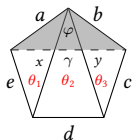
where D_t is the set of double dimer covers using the *top* edge of the last tile.

¹Ovenhouse Musiker and Zhang. “Double Dimer Covers on Snake Graphs from Super Cluster Expansions”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.06497* (2021)

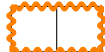
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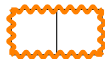
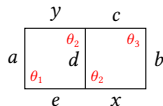
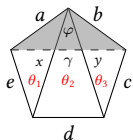
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$D_t(G) :$

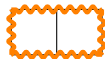
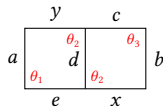
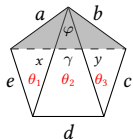


Example



$$\sum_{M \in D_t(G)} \text{wt}(M) = acx + a\sqrt{bcdx}\theta_2\theta_3 + \sqrt{abcexy}\theta_1\theta_3$$

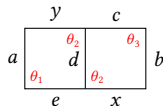
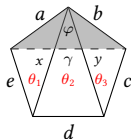
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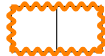
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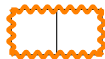
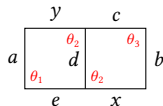
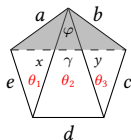


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Looking at the top-right corner of the last tile of $G = G_\gamma$, there are 3 cases:



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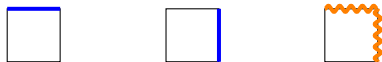
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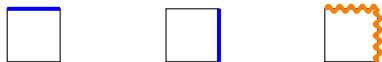
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The strategy of the proof is to show that

$$\frac{ac}{e} = \sum_{M \in D_T(G)} \text{wt}(M)$$

$$\frac{bd}{e} = \sum_{M \in D_R(G)} \text{wt}(M)$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{abcd}}{e} \sigma\theta = \sum_{M \in D_{tr}(G)} \text{wt}(M)$$

Thank You!